

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

LISA L. TRESSLAR,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 24-1435
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	:	
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, et al.	:	
	:	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendants.	:	

PROTECTIVE AND CONFIDENTIALITY ORDER

AND NOW, this 29th day of April, 2025, upon consideration of the Letters of the Parties (ECF Nos. 58, 59, 62-65), the Court finds that good cause exists to **ORDER** this Confidentiality and Protective Order as follows¹:

1. The Court recognizes the Parties' desire to expedite the flow of discovery material, facilitate the prompt resolution of certain disputes over privilege and confidentiality, and adequately protect material entitled to be kept privileged and/or confidential.
2. Any party to this litigation shall have the right to designate as "Confidential" and subject to this Discovery Confidentiality Agreement (the "Agreement") any information, document, or thing, or portion of any document or thing containing: (a) trade secrets; competitively

¹ Upon consideration of the parties' letters to the Court regarding their dispute as to what confidentiality order to enter in this case and whether certain documents should be designated as "Attorney's Eyes Only," the Court will enter the Confidentiality Order proposed by Plaintiff. See ECF No. 59. The Court finds that Plaintiff will be prejudiced in the prosecution of her claims without access to the discovery materials. Moreover, Defendants, at this point, have not made any formal claims of privilege. The potential for prejudice to Plaintiff outweighs Defendants' speculative concerns regarding breaches of this Order.

However, the Court cautions that this Confidentiality Order is to be *strictly* adhered to. Any transgression of this Order may result in sanctions or even referrals to the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

sensitive technical, marketing, financial, sales or other confidential business information; proprietary contracts; submissions of information to regulatory agencies that are designated confidential or for which confidential treatment has been requested; proprietary policies and procedures; proprietary business planning documents; proprietary business strategies and marketing plans; customer lists and information; costs and pricing; current and former independent contractor or employee information; (b) that contains private or confidential personal information; or (c) that contains information received in confidence from third parties, or

(d) information the producing party otherwise believes in good faith to be entitled to protection under Rule 26(c)(1)(G) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Any party to this litigation covered by this Agreement that produces or discloses any Confidential material, including without limitation any information, document, thing, interrogatory answer, admission, pleading, or testimony, shall mark the same with the foregoing or similar legend: “CONFIDENTIAL” or “CONFIDENTIAL – SUBJECT TO DISCOVERY CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT” (hereinafter “Confidential”).

3. All Confidential material shall be used by the receiving party solely for purposes of the prosecution or defense of this action, shall not be used by the receiving party for any business, commercial, competitive, personal or other purpose, and shall not be disclosed by the receiving party to anyone other than those set forth in Paragraph 3, except by prior written agreement of counsel for the parties, or by Order of the Court.

4. Confidential material and the contents of Confidential material may be disclosed only to the following individuals under the following conditions:

- a. Outside counsel (herein defined as any attorney at the parties’ outside law firms) and relevant in-house counsel for the parties;
- b. Outside experts or consultants retained by outside counsel for purposes of this action, provided they have signed a non-disclosure agreement in the

form attached hereto as Exhibit A;

- c. Secretarial, paralegal, clerical, duplicating and data processing personnel of the foregoing;
- d. The Court and court personnel;
- e. The jury at any trial of this matter;
- f. Any deponent may be shown or examined on any information, document or thing designated Confidential if it appears that the witness authored or received a copy of it, was involved in the subject matter described therein or is employed by the party who produced the information, document or thing, or if the producing party consents to such disclosure;
- g. Vendors retained by or for the parties to assist in preparing for pretrial discovery, trial and/or hearings including, but not limited to, court reporters, litigation support personnel, jury consultants, individuals to prepare demonstrative and audiovisual aids for use in the courtroom or in depositions or mock jury sessions, as well as their staff, stenographic, and clerical employees whose duties and responsibilities require access to such materials; and
- h. The parties. In the case of parties that are corporations or other business entities, “party” shall mean executives, officers and/or managers who are required to participate in decisions with reference to this lawsuit.

5. Confidential material shall be used only by individuals permitted access to it under Paragraph 3. Confidential material, copies thereof, and the information contained therein, shall not be disclosed in any manner to any other individual, until and unless (a) outside counsel for the party asserting confidentiality waives the claim of confidentiality, or (b) the Court orders such disclosure.

6. With respect to any depositions that involve a disclosure of Confidential material of a party to this action, such party shall have until thirty (30) days after receipt of the deposition transcript within which to inform all other parties that portions of the transcript are to be designated Confidential, which period may be extended by agreement of the parties. No such deposition transcript shall be disclosed to any individual other than the individuals described in Paragraph

3(a), (b), (c), (d), (g) and (h) above and the deponent during these thirty (30) days, and no individual attending such a deposition shall disclose the contents of the deposition to any individual other than those described in Paragraph 3(a), (b), (c), (d), (g) and (h) above and the deponent during said thirty (30) days. Upon being informed that certain portions of a deposition are to be designated as Confidential, all parties shall immediately cause each copy of the transcript in its custody or control to be appropriately marked and limit disclosure of that transcript in accordance with Paragraphs 2 and 3.

7. If counsel for a party receiving documents or information designated as Confidential hereunder objects to such designation of any or all of such items, the following procedure shall apply:

a. Counsel for the objecting party shall serve on the designating party a written objection to such designation, which shall describe with particularity the documents or information in question and shall state the grounds for objection. Counsel for the designating party shall respond in writing to such objection within fourteen (14) days, and shall state with particularity the grounds for asserting that the document or information is Confidential. If no timely written response is made to the objection, the challenged designation will be deemed to be void. If the designating party makes a timely response to such objection asserting the propriety of the designation, counsel shall then confer in good faith in an effort to resolve the dispute.

b. If a dispute as to a Confidential designation of a document or item of information cannot be resolved by agreement, the party objecting to the designation shall present the dispute to the Court initially by telephone or letter before filing a formal motion for an order regarding the challenged designation. The document or information that is the subject of the filing shall be treated as originally designated pending resolution of the dispute.

8. If a party believes documents or information to be produced warrant protection

beyond a Confidential designation (i.e., "Attorneys' Eyes Only"), that party shall have the right to apply to the Court for the imposition of such heightened protection.

9. All requests to seal documents filed with the Court shall comply with Local Civil Rule 5.1.5. In lieu of seeking to file confidential documents under seal, prior to filing any Motions or other documents with the Court which seek to attach any confidential material, the parties shall first confer and attempt to redact as much confidential information as possible before filing.

10. To the extent consistent with applicable law, the inadvertent or unintentional disclosure of Confidential material that should have been designated as such, regardless of whether the information, document or thing was so designated at the time of disclosure, shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a party's claim of confidentiality, either as to the specific information, document or thing disclosed or as to any other material or information concerning the same or related subject matter. Such inadvertent or unintentional disclosure may be rectified by notifying in writing counsel for all parties to whom the material was disclosed that the material should have been designated Confidential within a reasonable time after disclosure. Such notice shall constitute a designation of the information, document or thing as Confidential under this Agreement and Order.

11. When the inadvertent or mistaken disclosure of any information, document or thing protected by privilege or work-product immunity is discovered by the producing party and brought to the attention of the receiving party, the receiving party's treatment of such material shall be in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5)(B). Such inadvertent or mistaken disclosure of such information, document or thing shall not by itself constitute a waiver by the producing party of any claims of privilege or work-product immunity. However, nothing herein restricts the right of the receiving party to challenge the producing party's claim of privilege if appropriate within a reasonable time after receiving notice of the inadvertent or mistaken disclosure.

12. No information that is in the public domain or which is already known by the receiving party through proper means or which is or becomes available to a party from a source other than the party asserting confidentiality, rightfully in possession of such information on a non-confidential basis, shall be deemed or considered to be Confidential material under this Agreement.

13. This Agreement shall not deprive any party of its right to object to discovery by any other party or on any otherwise permitted ground. This Agreement is being entered without prejudice to the right of any party to move the Court for modification or for relief from any of its terms.

14. This Agreement shall survive the termination of this action and shall remain in full force and effect unless modified by an Order of this Court or by the written stipulation of the parties filed with the Court.

15. Upon final conclusion of this litigation, each party or other individual subject to the terms hereof shall be under an obligation to assemble and to return to the originating source all originals and unmarked copies of documents and things containing Confidential material and to destroy, should such source so request, all copies of Confidential material that contain and/or constitute attorney work product as well as excerpts, summaries and digests revealing Confidential material; provided, however, that counsel may retain complete copies of all transcripts and pleadings including any exhibits attached thereto for archival purposes, subject to the provisions of this Agreement. To the extent a party requests the return of Confidential material from the Court after the final conclusion of the litigation, including the exhaustion of all appeals therefrom and all related proceedings, the party shall file a motion seeking such relief.

The Court retains the right to allow, *sua sponte* or upon motion, disclosure of any subject covered by this stipulation or to modify this stipulation at any time in the interest of justice.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ John M. Gallagher

JOHN M. GALLAGHER

United States District Court Judge

EXHIBIT A

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

LISA L. TRESSLAR,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO.: 24-1435
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY	:	
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, et al.	:	
	:	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendants.	:	

AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY DISCOVERY CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

I, _____, being duly sworn, state that:

1. My address is _____.

2. My present employer is _____ and the address of my present employment is _____.

3. My present occupation or job description is _____.

4. I have carefully read and understood the provisions of the Discovery Confidentiality Agreement in this case signed by the Court, and I will comply with all of its terms.

5. I will hold in confidence and not disclose to anyone not qualified under the Discovery Confidentiality Agreement any Confidential Material or any words, summaries, abstracts, or indices of Confidential Information disclosed to me.

6. I will limit use of Confidential Material disclosed to me solely for purpose of this action.

7. No later than the final conclusion of the case, I will return all Confidential Material and summaries, abstracts, and indices thereof which come into my possession, and documents or things which I have prepared relating thereto, to counsel for the party for whom I was employed or retained.

* * * *

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature

Printed Name

Date